

REMARKS

Claims 34-39, 41, 45, 46, 48-52, 54, 56-65 and 67-73 are in this application and are presented for consideration. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 34, 35, 37, 38, 39, 46, 49, 52, 54, 56 and 65.

Claims 34-39, 41, 45, 46, 48-52, 54, 56-65 and 67-73 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tajima (Japanese Publication Number 3003030).

The present invention relates to an apparatus equipped with a scanner unit. The apparatus comprises an image forming apparatus and a scanner that is removably mounted on the image forming apparatus. The scanner includes a reading element, a motor, and a roller driven by the motor. The motor drives the roller to transport a sheet when the scanner is mounted on the image forming apparatus. The scanner reads an original guided by the roller, which is driven by the motor, when the scanner is detached from the image forming apparatus. A first sheet transporting path is formed substantially vertically to guide a sheet downward on the first sheet transporting path. The reading element reads the sheet when the scanner is mounted on the image forming apparatus. The image forming apparatus includes a second sheet transporting path that extends substantially vertically to guide a sheet downward on the second sheet transporting path. The image forming apparatus performs an image forming process for a sheet traveling along the second sheet transporting path. The first sheet transporting path and the second sheet transporting path are arranged adjacent each other. The motor in the scanner advantageously allows the scanner to move autonomously so that a user does not have to move the scanner by hand. The roller driven by the motor in the scanner

advantageously allows paper to be fed whether the scanner is detached or attached to the image forming apparatus. The prior art as a whole fails to teach or suggest such features or advantages.

Tajima discloses a printer device with a scanner. A placing recessed part 3c for placing a scanner part 2 is formed on a side of the printer device 3. A printing paper insertion port 3a is formed on the upper end face side and a discharge port 3d is formed on the lower end face side. The side part of the printer device 3 is detachably fitted to a disk side 99a through a magnet. The scanner part 2 detachably fitted on the recessed part 3 is connected independently of the printer device 3 through a wire harness 101. An image sensor 2a is provided in the housing B to scan the surface of an original paper X. Paper is fed to the scanner part 2 via transporting means Z1, Z2 when the scanner part 2 is attached to the printer device 3. The scanner includes a rotary encoder 54.

Tajima fails to teach or suggest the combination of a scanner that includes a roller driven by a motor. The roller driven by a motor in the present invention is significant because it advantageously allows the scanner to move autonomously when it is detached from the image forming apparatus so that a user does not have to physically move the scanner. This advantageously allows a user to save time since the user can do other tasks while the scanner reads the document. Tajima teaches a different approach than the present invention. Tajima fails to provide a motor to drive a roller within the scanner part 2 so that a user has to physically push the scanner over the document being scanned. At most, Tajima suggests that the scanner part 2 includes a rotary encoder 54. Applicant fails to see how a rotary encoder is the

equivalent of the motor in the present invention. A rotary encoder is a sensor that converts rotary motion into a series of electronic pulses. This is clearly not the functional equivalent of the motor in the scanner of the preset invention. In the present invention, the roller driven by the motor in the scanner advantageously sheets of paper to be transported through the scanner to be read whether the scanner is attached to the image forming apparatus or detached from the image forming apparatus. The scanner part 2 of Tajima fails to move or transport the documents relative to the scanner part 2 when the scanner part 2 is detached from the printer device 3. In contrast to the present invention, paper in Tajima is fed to the scanner part 2 only when the scanner part 2 is attached to the printer device 3. The present invention provides a different approach. In the present invention, the roller driven by the motor is contained within the scanner that can be detached. With this construction the sheets of paper can move through the scanner at all times with or without the scanner being attached to the printer. In Tajima, the scanner fails to act autonomously since the scanner does not have a roller driven by a motor built into the scanner part 2. Tajima merely discloses that the scanner is fed sheets of paper by the second transporting means Z2 provided on the printer apparatus only when the scanner part 2 is mounted on the printer apparatus. In contrast, the motor within the scanner of the present invention actuates the roller to autonomously scan a document. As such, the prior art teaches a different approach and does not suggest the features of the present invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner favorably consider claims 34, 39, 46, 49, 52, 54, 56 and 65 and all claims that respectively depend thereon.

The prior art as a whole fails to direct the person of ordinary skill in the art toward the

feature of the invention. Further, the invention includes cooperating features which provide particular advantages which are neither taught nor suggested by the prior art. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner favorably consider the amended claims in light of the discussion above.

Further and favorable consideration on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted
for Applicant,



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Attached: Petition for Three Month Extension of Time

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SHOULD ANY OTHER FEE BE REQUIRED, THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE IS HEREBY REQUESTED TO CHARGE SUCH FEE TO OUR DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 13-0410.